

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 H-02 SS-15 NSC-05

SP-02 PRS-01 PA-01 USIA-06 EPA-01 OES-03 CEQ-01 SIL-01

LAB-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-05 FEAE-00 MC-02 PM-04 /085 W

----- 097074

R 221218Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7072

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

FAA BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, FR, UK, US

SUBJ: CIVAIR: CONCORDE

1. COLEMAN HEARING OF JANUARY 5 ON CONCORDE AND INTEREST IT GENERATED IN FRANCE IN ANTICIPATION OF USG DECISION STIRRED FRENCH PUBLIC OPINION INTO BECOMING MORE ASSERTIVE AND VOCAL IN DEFENSE OF CONCORDE. THIS HAS CONTINUED AS PUBLIC ATTENTION WAS THEN BROUGHT TO FOCUS ON INAUGURATION OF CONCORDE SCHEDULED SERVICE JANUARY 21 WITH AIR FRANCE'S OPENING FLIGHT TO RIO, AND ALL THAT SCHEDULED OPERATIONS IMPLY FOR THE COMMERCIAL SUCCESS OF THE AIRCRAFT AND THE FUTURE OF THE CONCORDE ASSEMBLY LINE AT TOULOUSE. MUCH OF THE PROPAGANDIZING MAY HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED BY THE TOULOUSE-BASED COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENSE OF

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CONCORDE, WHICH AS REPORTED PARIS 33929 HAD URGED A

MASSIVE LETTER-WRITING CAMPAIGN TO SECRETARY COLEMAN IN ADVANCE OF THE JANUARY 5 HEARING. (PRO-CONCORDE MAIL RECEIVED BY THE EMBASSY FROM FRENCH CITIZENS, WHILE STILL NOT AT ALL VOLUMINOUS, HAS NONETHELESS INCREASED IN THIS PERIOD.)

2. THE COMMUNIST MAYOR (AND ALSO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTY) OF VILLENEUVE-LE-ROI, A COMMUNITY NEAR ORLY AIRPORT, SENT EMBASSY COPY OF LETTER HE HAD WRITTEN TO SECRETARY COLEMAN. WHILE MAYOR HAS HIMSELF BEEN ACTIVE IN SUPPORT OF NOISE ABATEMENT EFFORTS IN VICINITY OF ORLY, HE RATIONALIZED SUPPORT FOR CONCORDE ON GROUNDS WAS IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD FOR CIVIL AVIATION AND WAS ALSO IMPORTANT TO FRENCH INDUSTRY AND EMPLOYMENT. PRESS REPORTS THAT HE AND MAYOR OF TOWN OF ORLY ALSO WROTE LETTERS TO NEW YORK MAYOR BEAME IN SUPPORT OF CONCORDE.

3. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED CURT TELEGRAM ADDRESSED TO SECRETARY COLEMAN STATING IT IS FROM FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY SECTION AT CHARLES DE GAULLE AIRPORT AND PEREMPTORILY DEMANDING CONCORDE BE AUTHORIZED LAND IN US.

4. ON DEC. 31 AFP REPORTED COMMUNIST DEPUTY HAD SUBMITTED WRITTEN QUESTION IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ASKING WHAT MEASURES GOF WAS TAKING TO ENSURE USG AUTHORIZED CONCORDE TO SERVE US AIRPORTS.

5. BORDEAUX 003 HAS ALREADY REPORTED DEMAND BY TOULOUSE LOCAL OF CGT, COMMUNIST-DOMINATED TRADE UNION, FOR BOYCOTT OF AMERICAN PRODUCTS AS WELL AS HALT IN SERVICING OF AIRCRAFT OF US CARRIERS IF CONCORDE BANNED FROM US.

6. GEORGE SEGUY, SECRETARY GENERAL OF CGT, STATED IN RADIO INTERVIEW EARLY THIS MONTH THAT IF CONCORDE WAS BANNED BY US FRENCH INDUSTRY MUST RETALIATE, AND APROPOS OF ABOVE SUGGESTION FOR BOYCOTT HE URGED THAT THE VARIOUS TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FRANCE AGREE ON COMMON COURSE OF ACTION.

7. DELEGATION COMPRISING REPS OF METALWORKER AND TRANSPORT WORKER FEDERATIONS OF CGT, INCLUDING WORKERS FROM AEROSPATIALE IN TOULOUSE, LEFT PETITION AT ELYSEE JANUARY 20 (BEARING 30,000 SIGNATURES, SO UNION REPS CLAIMED) ASKING PRESIDENT GISCARD TO MAKE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR CONTINUING THE CONCORDE

PRODUCTION LINE AND, AS QUOTED BY AFP, "TO ENVISAGE USEFUL MEANS OF ECONOMIC PRESSURE ON THE US IF THE US PERSISTS IN REFUSING TO PERMIT CONCORDE TO LAND". AFP REPORTS THAT PETITION PROPOSED IN PARTICULAR THAT CONTRACTS FOR AIRCRAFT LEASING BY AIR FRANCE WITH US COMPANIES BE CANCELLED AND EMBARGO BE PLACED ON ALL FRENCH PURCHASE OF US-BUILT AIRCRAFT.

8. IN A COMMUNIQUE RELEASED JAN. 20 ON OCCASION CONCORDE INAUGURAL FLIGHT TO RIO, THE SAME TWO CGT

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FEDERATIONS MENTIONED PARA 7 ABOVE SAID THAT TRADE UNION ACTION IN SUPPORT OF CONCORDE SHOULD SERVE

AS "SPRINGBOARD FOR NEW STRUGGLE" TO ENSURE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONALIZED SECTOR (AIRCRAFT AND TRANSPORTATION IN GENERAL). EXPRESSING FEAR THAT GOF WOULD BOW TO PRESSURE FROM US CONSTRUCTORS, COMMUNIQUE ARGUED THAT ONLY MASS ACTION COULD INFLUENCE GOF ATTITUDE AND ENSURE JOB SECURITY FOR 30,000 WORKERS WHOSE FUTURE DEPENDS ON CONTINUATION OF CONCORDE PROGRAM.

9. REPS OF CGT LOCALS AT AEROSPATIALE PLANTS IN ST.NAZAIRE AND NANTES ALSO HELD PRESS CONFERENCE JAN. 20 AT ST.NAZAIRE AND ECHOED THE ABOVE LINE. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEY CLAIMED ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN WAS PHONY ISSUE IN US AND WAS BEING USED TO CIRCUMVENT INTERNATIONAL LAW AND PRESERVE MONOPOLY POSITION OF US AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY. CGT DEFENSE OF CONCORDE WAS MOTIVATED BY DESIRE TO PREVENT US TAKEOVER OF FRENCH AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY AND TO DEFEND EMPLOYMENT AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCE. APPEAL WAS RENEWED THAT GOF TAKE REPRISALS IF US "BOYCOTTS" CONCORDE.

10. THE ONLY DISSIDENT VOICE IN THIS TRADE UNION LITANY CAME FROM CFDT SECTION AT AIR FRANCE FREIGHT TERMINAL AT CHARLES DE GAULLE AIRPORT. ACCORDING AFP, THEY CRITICIZED CONCORDE AS SERVING ONLY THE NEEDS OF THE "SUPERPRIVILEGED", AND THEY URGED THAT THE GOF INSTEAD PUT FUNDS INTO IMPROVING MASS TRANSIT SYSTEMS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE MAJORITY OF FRENCH WORKERS.

11. AFP REPORTED THAT IN A STATEMENT JAN. 19 BEFORE THE CONSEIL GENERAL OF THE HAUTE GARONNE, SECSTATE OF TRANSPORTATION CAVAILLE SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE IN THE EFFICACY OF BOYCOTT MEASURES IN FRANCE AGAINST AIRCRAFT OF US CARRIERS. HE SAID THAT SUCH MEASURES WOULD SIMPLY CREATE ANTI-CONCORDE SENTIMENT IN US, WHERE AT PRESENT LARGE SEGMENT OF PUBLIC OPINION IS ACTUALLY FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD CONCORDE. IF APPLICATION TO SERVE US POINTS BY CONCORDE WAS TURNED DOWN, WHICH HE SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE WOULD BE THE CASE, HE CONSIDERED IT WOULD BE UP TO THE FRENCH AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS TO CONCERT IN ORDER TO ADOPT AN AGREED POSITION.

12. COMMENT: WE HAVE NOT BEEN SELECTIVE IN CHOOSING THE ITEMS REPORTED ABOVE, BUT HAVE INCLUDED ALL THAT HAVE RECENTLY COME TO OUR ATTENTION. RECALLING THE STATEMENT IN L'HUMANITE EARLIER THIS

MONTH THAT THE COMMUNISTS ARE "THE BEST DEFENDERS OF CONCORDE" (PARA 4 PARIS 431) IT LOOKS INDEED AS IF THE COMMUNISTS, AND ESPECIALLY THEIR TRADE UNION ARM, THE CGT, ARE TRYING TO CAPITALIZE ON PRESENT PUBLIC SENSITIVITY TO CONCORDE AND MAKE THEMSELVES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OUT TO BE THE MOST VIGOROUS CHAMPIONS OF CONCORDE, THE FRENCH AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY, AND EMPLOYMENT. (COMMENT IN JANUARY 21 L'HUMANITY IS ALSO OF SPECIAL INTEREST IN THIS REGARD AND WILL BE REPORTED SEPARATELY IN REVIEW OF FRENCH PRESS ON OCCASION CONCORDE INAUGURAL FLIGHT.)  
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## Message Attributes

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**Review Authority:** morefirh  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 MAR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <29 MAR 2004 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <13 MAY 2004 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CIVAIR: CONCORDE  
**TAGS:** EAIR, FR, UK, US, (COLEMAN, WILLIAM)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006